

## Remarks

### **A. Claims**

#### **1. Allowability**

Applicants acknowledge the finding that claims 22-27, 55-70, 83-87 and 94-100 are allowable.

#### **2. Description of Claim Amendments**

Claim 28 has been amended to depend from the aforementioned allowable claim 2 and the limitation "wherein said tightly agglomerated compositions have an average size in a range of about 20 nanometers to about 6000 nanometers" has been deleted.

Claim 80 has been amended to depend from claim 28 instead of claim 101.

Claim 101 has been cancelled.

Claim 114, which depends from claim 28, has been added and support for it resides, for example, in the originally presented and allowable claim 5.

Claim 115, which depends from claim 28, has been added and support for it resides, for example, in the originally presented and allowable claim 17.

Claim 116, which depends from claim 114, has been added and support for it resides, for example, in the originally presented and allowable claim 17.

Claim 117, which depends from claim 28, has been added and support for it resides, for example, in the originally presented and allowable claim 19.

Claim 118, which depends from claim 114, has been added and support for it resides, for example, in the originally presented and allowable claim 17.

#### **3. Section 112**

Claims 28, 80-82, 88-93, and 101-113 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. In view of the above described amendment to claims 28 and 80, it is respectfully submitted that claims 28, 80-82-, 88-93, and 101-113 comply with §112, first paragraph.

Appl. No. 09/973,624  
Amdt. dated December 5, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of June 5, 2006

#### **4. Section 103**

As described above, claim 28 had been amended to depend from allowable claim 2. Therefore, claim 28 and all claims that depend directly or indirectly therefrom are likewise allowable.

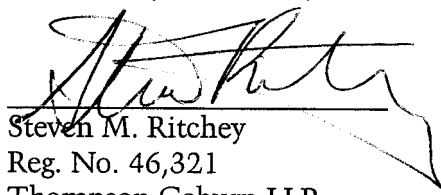
#### **B. Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicants are submitting herewith an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. In particular, this IDS is being submitted pursuant to §1.97(c)(1) and the Office is hereby authorize to deduct the necessary fee set forth in §1.17(p) from Deposit Account Number 20-0823.

#### **C. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, all of the pending rejections have been rendered moot and all the pending claims are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Ritchey  
Reg. No. 46,321  
Thompson Coburn LLP  
One US Bank Plaza  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
(314) 552-6000  
(314) 552-7000 (fax)